

Prayer List

Gene
Veda
Wallace
Sheila
Judy

Services:

Sunday

Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
Assembly 10:00 a.m.
Assembly 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Elders:

Brad Behrens - bradbehrens@pinolechurchofchrist.com
Michael Odom - MichaelOdom@pinolechurchofchrist.com
Ernie Sprinkel - preacher@pinolechurchofchrist.com

This Week's Question:

Who said, "The grave cannot praise thee, death cannot celebrate thee"?

Answer To Last Week's Question:

Joseph - Genesis 50:26

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Tune In to Tune Up

Dee Bowman

In the early 1930s a gifted violinist moved to Montana. He had been the concertmaster for a large orchestra in an eastern city. Now, separated from his colleagues and without anyone to play with, he kept up his abilities by playing alone. He had a fine ear and was able to keep his violin in tune with itself; but he longed to know that it was in perfect tune. For you see, a violin can be in tune with whatever you start with as a standard, but only when it is tuned to A-440 (the note "A" at 440 vibrations) is it tuned according to the standard.

There was no way to know for sure that his instrument was in tune. But, being a clever fellow, he devised a plan. He wrote to the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) which had a network affiliate in the area. He asked that, at a designated time on a specified day, they sound for him A-440. They did so. Much to his delight, he could now know that his violin was in tune with the standard.

We, too, can be in tune and still not be in tune with the standard.

1. It is not enough to be in tune with yourself. The Bible warns about those who would compare themselves with themselves and judge themselves by themselves (2 Corinthians 10:12). Such is a foolish enterprise. Oh, it is possible by such measures to be in tune with yourself, for you are the standard. But the true standard is outside ourselves: it is immutable and perfect. The true standard for measuring where and what we are is the Bible. We must come to it; listen carefully to what it says; do as it commands. Only then can we know that we are in tune with the standard.

2. It is generally dangerous to be in tune with society. Society is based on conformity. It is constantly inviting us to do what every one does. It has a powerful effect. Using such things as style, fads, acceptability—and especially advertising—it subtly invades the righteous mind by causing it to think that because everybody's doing it, it must be all right. Advertising may be its most effective tool. To be in tune with society is to do what society does. You talk like society, walk like society, go where it goes and do what it does. Conformity is a strong influence. Nobody likes being out of tune with everybody else.

The Scriptures tell us “of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought into bondage” (2 Peter 2:19). It takes great virtue to stand up in the middle of such strong desire to conform and take a stand for the standard. It means you may seem to the world a sour note, one who hears a different melody, but in the eyes of God you are in tune with purity.

3. It is not always good to be in tune with tradition. Tradition is one of the most appealing of all motives. After all, “it's been that way for years,” we say. We have trouble

bucking tradition on any front—politics, religion, even the make of car we drive. It is uncomfortable to go against what has been, perhaps for generations, acceptable. But just because you are in tune with what your parents or grandparents did, does not argue that you are in tune with God. Paul was forced to leave the tradition of his fathers (Philippians 3:4), his old religion (3:5), even his old party (3:5). But leave it he did. And why? He saw himself as being out of harmony with the will of God.

4. It is always right to make sure you are in tune with God. We can understand when we are out of tune by a comparison of how we sound with the standard; in this case, the word of God. It is sufficient (2 Timothy 3:16–17). It is complete (Jude 3). We can count on it to give us eternal life (1 John 2:15–17). It is the standard, not just a standard.

We may well think ourselves to be doing nicely when we are actually only in tune with ourselves. We may enjoy the acceptance of society—which can be very pleasant—and still only be in tune with the community. And there is an admitted quietude which comes from living according to accepted tradition.

But the wise choice is to sound A-440—to get back to the word of God as our standard. When we are in tune with it, we are in tune with Him who gave it. Listen in, folks. Turn your radio on. Get in tune with God.